

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2743
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2006
NATIONAL POLICY ON HANDLING OF FOODGRAINS
Dhanaraju Dr. K.

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any National Policy on handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains have been formulated to minimise storage and transit losses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government have issued any guidelines for the use of modern technology to minimise transit/storage losses;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to minimise transit/storage losses of foodgrains?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

- (a): Yes, Sir. With a view to minimize storage and transit losses and to introduce modern technology, the Government had announced a National Policy on handling, Storage and transportation of foodgrains in June, 2000.
- (b): The policy envisaged encouragement of private sector participation for development of infrastructure for integrated bulk handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains.
- (c) & (d): The Government has initiated a pilot project through private sector participation for development of integrated bulk handling, storage and transportation facilities on Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis.
- (e): The following steps are being taken by the Government to minimize transit/storage losses of foodgrains:
 - (i) Good quality and new gunny bags are used for packaging of foodgrains (wheat and rice).
 - (ii) Double line machine stitching of bags is encouraged.
 - (iii) Adoption of 50 Kg bags in phased manner to avoid use of hooks for lifting of foodgrain bags.
 - (iv) Tarpaulins/polythene sheets are used to collect spillage during loading and unloading of trucks/railway wagons.
 - (v) Scientific code of practices including prophylactic and curative measures are adopted for the control of insect pests during storage of foodgrains to minimize storage losses.
 - (vi) Inspection and monitoring of calibration of weigh bridges.
 - (vii) Maintaining priority list for issue of stocks observing the First in First Out (FIFO) principle.
 - (viii) Movement of foodgrains in covered wagons.
 - (ix) Transit Insurance Agreement with M/S Oriental Insurance w.e.f. 20.9.2002 (for one year) for the losses arising out of transportation of foodgrains ex North to other Zones.